

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An aiming device for a locking nail comprising a connecting portion, connectable to an end of the nail and having an aiming arm with a first portion which extends approximately parallel to the nail when the nail is connected with the connecting portion, the first portion is provided with at least one transverse bore extending along an axis for receiving a guiding sleeve having a longitudinal axis said first portion has at least one slot intersecting said bore, a biased-lever moveably mounted within the slot and having a first end attached to a first end of the slot and having a second end-region, said lever second region having a sleeve contacting surface in the form of a recess having an open portion for receiving an outer surface of said sleeve, said open portion open in a-radial direction generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of said sleeve, a means for biasing the recess in the lever~~said lever biased inwardly against the sleeve, the slot and the lever being disposed such that the lever may be moved against the action of the biasing means~~swiveled out of the slot in a plane which is generally perpendicular to the axis of the sleeve~~transverse bore and out of engagement with an outer surface of said sleeve.~~

2. (currently amended) The aiming device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the nail and the first portion are provided with two angled bores closely spaced together, each for receiving a guide sleeve, the first portion is provided with two parallel slots accommodating a lever, the sleeve contacting surface of each lever is provided with two adjacent ~~opening or recesses~~ each recess having a different depth with the shallower recess adapted~~and the openings or recesses of each lever are formed to contact the outer surface of~~ only one of said two sleeves respectively.

3. (currently amended) The aiming device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first end portion of the lever—~~received~~ is fixedly attached to the first end of the slot has a relatively smaller cross-section than the~~compared to a~~ second end region~~portion~~ of the lever.

4. (original) The aiming device as set forth in claim 3 wherein the end portion of the lever is fixed in the slot by gluing.

5. (original) The aiming device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first portion is movable on an aiming arm and capable of being fixed at a selected location thereon.

6. (original) The aiming device as set forth in claim 5 wherein the first portion is provided with a connecting portion offset with an obtuse angle, and the aiming arm runs in an acute angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of an implanted nail such that the first portion extends approximately parallel to the nail axis.

7. (original) The aiming device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first portion and/or the levers are formed from carbon fiber reinforced plastic material.

8. (original) The aiming device as set forth in claim 6 wherein the first portion is connected to a sleeve portion which is moveable in a non-rotatable manner on the aiming arm.

9. (currently amended) An aiming apparatus for locating an implant in a long bone, the implant having at least two transverse bores therethrough, the apparatus comprising:

an aiming arm connected to the implant, the arm having a first portion for extending adjacent a long bone and having at least two bores alignable with the at least two bores in the implant;

at least two guide sleeves each having a generally cylindrical bore extending along a central axis of the guide sleeve, one guide sleeve mounted in~~for insertion into~~ each bore in the first portion of the aiming arm; and

a selectively movable means mounted in a slot in the first arm portion~~associated with each sleeve for~~ independently engaging and holding said one sleeve mounted in each of said aiming arm bores, said means allowing the selective independent engagement~~release~~ of each~~said~~ sleeve in~~from~~ said bores by movement of said selectively moveable means in a ~~radial~~ direction generally perpendicular~~with respect~~ to said guide sleeve bore central axis.

10. (currently amended) The aiming apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein the means for holding said sleeve in each of said aiming arm bores comprises a separate biased lever associated with said sleeve in each bore, each separate lever mounted in a slot on said first portion, each separate lever biased into engagement with only a respective one of said sleeves.

11. (previously presented) The aiming apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein said sleeve in each bore has a separate biased lever engageable therewith, each biased lever having a recess for accommodating said respective sleeve in each bore with only a single recess having a surface contacting a respective one of said sleeves in each bore.

12. (previously presented) The aiming apparatus as set forth in claim 11 wherein the separate lever is made of a resiliently deflectable material and is mounted in a slot in said first portion, each lever having a first end fixed at a first end of said slot and having a handle at a second end for resiliently deflecting the lever about their fixed ends out of engagement with said respective sleeve in each bore.

13. (currently amended) An aiming apparatus for locating bores in a device implanted in a long bone comprising:

an aiming arm connected to the implanted device and having a first portion adapted to extend generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of a long bone, the first portion having two bores therethrough extending in a direction not parallel to the longitudinal axis;

first and second guide sleeves respectively associated with each aiming arm bore having a generally cylindrical outer surface mounted in each of said aiming arm bores such that a central axis of the first and second guide sleeve and the respective aiming bore axis are concentric; and

first and second two resilient locking elements moveably mounted on said first portion, means for biasing each locking element in a direction generally perpendicular to the guide sleeve central axis towards the outer surface of the first and second guide sleeves, each locking element having an open recess defining a surface engageable with an outer surface of only a single one of said first and second sleeves by movement in the radial direction perpendicular to the ~~of said~~ guide sleeve bore axis by the biasing means.

14. (currently amended) The aiming apparatus as set forth in claim 13 wherein the nail and the first portion are provided

with two angled bores closely spaced together, each for receiving one of said first and second ~~separate~~ guide sleeves, the first portion is provided with two parallel slots, each for accommodating the first or second ~~a separate~~ locking elements, ~~thea~~ sleeve contacting surface of the first and second ~~each~~ locking elements is provided with two adjacent ~~openings or~~ recesses, ~~and the openings or recesses~~ each recess having a different depth with the shallower recess adapted ~~each locking element are formed to contact the outer surface of the first guide~~ only one of said two sleeves respectively and the deeper recess spaced from the outer sleeve surface of the second sleeve, the shallower recess of the second locking element adapted to contact the outer surface of the second guide sleeve and the deeper recess spaced from the outer surface of the first guide sleeve.

15. (original) The aiming apparatus as set forth in claim 14 wherein a first end of the locking element is fixedly attached to a first end of the slot, said first end of the locking element having a relatively small cross-section compared to a second end portion of the locking element.

16. (original) The aiming apparatus as set forth in claim 15 wherein the first end portion of the locking element is fixed in the slot first end by gluing.

17. (original) The aiming apparatus as set forth in claim 13 wherein the aiming arm is moveable on a connecting portion attached to the device and is capable of being fixed at a selected location thereon.

18. (original) The aiming apparatus as set forth in claim 17 wherein the connecting portion is offset at an angle to

a longitudinal axis of an implanted nail such that the aiming arm extends approximately parallel to the nail axis.

19. (original) The aiming apparatus as set forth in claim 13 wherein the aiming arm is connected to a sleeve portion which is moveable in a non-rotatable manner on the connecting portion.

20. (original) The aiming apparatus as set forth in claim 13 wherein the aiming arm and/or the locking elements are formed from carbon fiber reinforced plastic material.